CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate, which comprises:

a faceplate comprising:

a rear wall with a perimeter and a cross-sectional shape, the rear wall containing one or more instrumentality apertures and having a means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said faceplate to an electrical instrumentality;

a flange; and

an interior surface projecting generally forward from the rear wall and connecting the rear wall to the flange; and

a box comprising:

a rear wall having a perimeter;

a lateral surface attached to and projecting generally forward from the perimeter of the rear wall and having a top containing a channel, a bottom containing a channel, and sides each containing a channel, with each channel having an interior end;

a connecting wall having a first end attached to the lateral surface, the connecting wall having sides and a second end and said connecting wall extending generally outward from the lateral surface; and

a front portion having a first end attached to and projecting generally forward from the sides and the second end of the connecting wall, the front portion containing the interior ends of the channels, the front portion having a second end forming an open mouth, the front portion having substantially the same cross-sectional shape as does the rear wall of said faceplate, and the front portion having dimensions such that the flange of the faceplate extends from the interior surface to a position laterally beyond the front of the mouth; and

a means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said box to an electrical instrumentality.

2. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 1, wherein:

the means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said faceplate to an electrical instrumentality which means comprises part of the faceplate is one or more apertures in the faceplate as well as one or more apertures in the connecting wall when the fastener for attaching said faceplate to an electrical instrumentality is a screw; and

the means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said box to an electrical instrumentality is a covered interior end having a threaded aperture for the channel on the top of the lateral surface of the box and a covered interior end having a threaded aperture for the channel on the bottom of the lateral surface of the box.

3. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 2, wherein:

said faceplate and said box each have a rectangular cross section.

4. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 3, further comprising:

a cover having a front surface, a top connected to the front surface, two sides each of which is connected to the front surface, and longitudinal tabs extending inward from each side; and

wherein said flange has sides, each side containing a channel running, along an edge of said flange to accommodate the longitudinal tabs of said cover.

5. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 1, wherein:

said faceplate and said box each have a rectangular cross section.

6. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 5, further comprising:

a cover having a front surface, a top connected to the front surface, two sides each of which is connected to the front surface, and longitudinal tabs extending inward from each side; and

wherein said flange has sides, each side containing a channel running, along an edge of said flange to accommodate the longitudinal tabs of said cover.

7. An Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate, which comprises:

a faceplate comprising:

a rear wall with a perimeter and a cross-sectional shape, the rear wall containing one or more instrumentality apertures and having a means for

accommodating a fastener for attaching said faceplate to an electrical instrumentality as well as a means for accommodating a releasable fastener;

a flange; and

an interior surface projecting generally forward from the rear wall and connecting the rear wall to the flange; and

a box comprising:

a rear wall having a perimeter;

a lateral surface attached to and projecting generally forward from the perimeter of the rear wall and having a top containing a channel, a bottom containing a channel, and sides each containing a channel, with each channel having an interior end;

a connecting wall having a first end attached to the lateral surface, the connecting wall having sides and a second end and said connecting wall extending generally outward from the lateral surface; and

a front portion having a first end attached to and projecting generally forward from the sides and the second end of the connecting wall, the front portion containing the interior ends of the channels, the front portion having a second end forming an open mouth, the front portion having substantially the same cross-sectional shape as does the rear wall of said faceplate, and the front portion having dimensions such that the flange of the faceplate extends from the interior surface to a position laterally beyond the front of the mouth; and

a means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said box to said faceplate.

8. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 7, wherein:

the means for accommodating a fastener in the rear wall of the faceplate is one or more apertures in the rear wall of the faceplate when the releasable fastener is a screw; and

the means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said box to said faceplate is a covered interior end having a threaded aperture for the channel on the top of the lateral surface of the box and a covered interior end having a threaded aperture for the

channel on the bottom of the lateral surface of the box when the releasable fastener is a screw that will pass through the aperture in the rear wall of the faceplate.

9. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 8, wherein:

said faceplate and said box each have a rectangular cross section.

10. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 9, further comprising:

a cover having a front surface, a top connected to the front surface, two sides each of which is connected to the front surface, and longitudinal tabs extending inward from each side; and

wherein said flange has sides, each side containing a channel running, along an edge of said flange to accommodate the longitudinal tabs of said cover.

11. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 7, wherein:

said faceplate and said box each have a rectangular cross section.

12. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 11, further comprising:

a cover having a front surface, a top connected to the front surface, two sides each of which is connected to the front surface, and longitudinal tabs extending inward from each side; and

wherein said flange has sides, each side containing a channel running, along an edge of said flange to accommodate the longitudinal tabs of said cover.

13. An Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate, which comprises:

a faceplate comprising:

an outer portion comprising:

a flange;

the inner part

an interior surface having sides, being attached to the flange, and projecting generally rearward from the flange; and

a longitudinal projection extending inward from each side of the interior surface and having a means for accommodating a releasable fastener; and

an inner portion comprising:

a rear wall with a perimeter and a cross-sectional shape, the rear wall containing one or more instrumentality apertures and having a means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said faceplate to an electrical instrumentality as well as a means for accommodating a second releasable fastener; and

an interior surface projecting generally forward from the rear wall and connected to the rear wall, with the dimensions of the interior surface of the inner portion being such that the interior surface of the inner portion will fit into and slide along the interior surface of the outer portion with substantially no gaps between such interior surfaces; and

a box comprising:

a rear wall having a perimeter;

a lateral surface attached to and projecting generally forward from the perimeter of the rear wall and having a top containing a channel, a bottom containing a channel, and sides each containing a channel, with each channel having an interior end;

a connecting wall having a first end attached to the lateral surface, the connecting wall having sides and a second end and said connecting wall extending generally outward from the lateral surface; and

a front portion having a first end attached to and projecting generally forward from the sides and the second end of the connecting wall, the front portion containing the interior ends of the channels, the front portion having a second end forming an open mouth, the front portion having substantially the same cross-sectional shape as does the rear wall of said faceplate, and the front portion having dimensions such that the flange of the faceplate extends from the interior surface to a position laterally beyond the front of the mouth;

a means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said box to an electrical instrumentality; and

a means for accommodating a releasable fastener for drawing toward said box and releasably retaining the outer portion of said faceplate.

14. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 13, wherein:

the means for accommodating a releasable fastener in the longitudinal projection is an aperture when the releasable fastener accommodated thereby is a screw;

the means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said faceplate to an electrical instrumentality which means comprises part of the faceplate is one or more apertures in the faceplate as well as one or more apertures in the connecting wall when the fastener for attaching said faceplate to an electrical instrumentality is a screw;

the means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said box to an electrical instrumentality is a covered interior end having a threaded aperture for the channel on the top of the lateral surface of the box and a covered interior end having a threaded aperture for the channel on the bottom of the lateral surface of the box;

the means for accommodating a releasable fastener for drawing toward said box and releasably retaining the outer portion of said faceplate is a covered interior end having a threaded aperture for the channels on the sides of the lateral surface of the box so that said threaded aperture can receive screws which pass through the apertures in the longitudinal projections; and

the means for accommodating a second releasable fastener in the rear wall of the faceplate is an aperture.

15. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 14, wherein:

said faceplate and said box each have a rectangular cross section.

16. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 15, further comprising:

a cover having a front surface, a top connected to the front surface, two sides each of which is connected to the front surface, and longitudinal tabs extending inward from each side; and

wherein said flange has sides, each side containing a channel running, along an edge of said flange to accommodate the longitudinal tabs of said cover.

17. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 13, wherein:

said faceplate and said box each have a rectangular cross section.

18. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

a cover having a front surface, a top connected to the front surface, two sides each of which is connected to the front surface, and longitudinal tabs extending inward from each side; and

wherein said flange has sides, each side containing a channel running, along an edge of said flange to accommodate the longitudinal tabs of said cover.

19. An Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate, which comprises:

a faceplate comprising:

an outer portion comprising:

a flange;

an interior surface having sides, being attached to the flange, and projecting generally rearward from the flange; and

a longitudinal projection extending inward from each side of the interior surface and having a means for accommodating a releasable fastener; and

an inner portion comprising:

a rear wall with a perimeter and a cross-sectional shape, the rear wall containing one or more instrumentality apertures and having a means for accommodating a fastener for attaching said faceplate to an electrical instrumentality as well as a means for accommodating a releasable fastener; and

an interior surface projecting generally forward from the rear wall and connected to the rear wall, with the dimensions of the interior surface of the inner portion being such that the interior surface of the inner portion will fit into and slide along the interior surface of the outer portion with substantially no gaps between such interior surfaces; and

a box comprising:

a rear wall having a perimeter;

a lateral surface attached to and projecting generally forward from the perimeter of the rear wall and having a top containing a channel, a bottom containing a channel, and sides each containing a channel, with each channel having an interior end;

a connecting wall having a first end attached to the lateral surface, the connecting wall having sides and a second end and said connecting wall extending generally outward from the lateral surface; and

a front portion having a first end attached to and projecting generally forward from the sides and the second end of the connecting wall, the front portion containing the interior ends of the channels, the front portion having a second end forming an open mouth, the front portion having substantially the same cross-sectional shape as does the rear wall of said faceplate, and the front portion having dimensions such that the flange of the faceplate extends from the interior surface to a position laterally beyond the front of the mouth;

a means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said box to said faceplate; and

a means for accommodating a releasable fastener for drawing toward said box and releasably retaining the outer portion of said faceplate.

20. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 19, wherein:

the means for accommodating a releasable fastener in the longitudinal projection is an aperture when the releasable fastener accommodated thereby is a screw;

the means for accommodating a releasable fastener in the rear wall of the faceplate is one or more apertures in the rear wall of the faceplate when the releasable fastener is a screw; and

the means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said box to said faceplate is a covered interior end having a threaded aperture for the channel on the top of the lateral surface of the box and a covered interior end having a threaded aperture for the channel on the bottom of the lateral surface of the box when the releasable fastener is a screw that will pass through the aperture in the rear wall of the faceplate; and

the means for accommodating a releasable fastener for drawing toward said box and releasably retaining the outer portion of said faceplate is a covered interior end having a threaded aperture for the channels on the sides of the lateral surface of the box so that said threaded aperture can receive screws which pass through the apertures in the longitudinal projections.

21. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 20, wherein:

said faceplate and said box each have a rectangular cross section.

22. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 21, further comprising:

a cover having a front surface, a top connected to the front surface, two sides each of which is connected to the front surface, and longitudinal tabs extending inward from each side; and

wherein said flange has sides, each side containing a channel running, along an edge of said flange to accommodate the longitudinal tabs of said cover.

23. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 19, wherein:

said faceplate and said box each have a rectangular cross section.

24. The Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

a cover having a front surface, a top connected to the front surface, two sides each of which is connected to the front surface, and longitudinal tabs extending inward from each side; and

wherein said flange has sides, each side containing a channel running, along an edge of said flange to accommodate the longitudinal tabs of said cover.

25. An extender for a traditional electrical box, which comprises:

a first side having a front, a back, a top, and a bottom with the top and bottom beyond the position of the top and bottom of a traditional electrical box, said first side containing an aperture that will be above a height equal to the top and an aperture that will be below the level of the bottom of a traditional electrical box, with such apertures also being at a position that will be in general alignment with the projections on the top and bottom of a traditional electrical box;

a second side having two channels to accommodate projections on a traditional electrical box and also having a front, a back, a top, and a bottom with the top and bottom beyond the position of the top and bottom of a traditional electrical box, said second side containing an aperture that will be above a height equal to the top and an aperture that will be below the level of the bottom of a traditional electrical box, with such apertures also being at a position that will be in general alignment with the projections on the top and bottom of a traditional electrical box;

a wall attached, at a distance from the back of the sides of the extender greater than the distance between the open front of a traditional electrical box and the projections for holding nails on the top of a traditional electrical box, to said first side and said second side running from the bottom to the top of said first side and said second side, containing one or more instrumentality apertures, having a lower aperture and an upper aperture that, when the extender has been placed upon a traditional electrical box, will generally be aligned with an upper and a lower channel of a traditional electrical box, said wall also having a top and a bottom;

an upper segment running along and attached to the top of said wall between said first side and said second side of the extender from said wall to the front of the said first side and said second side, said upper segment also being attached to the top of said first side and said second side; and

a lower upper segment running along and attached to the top of said wall between said first side and said second side of the extender from said wall to the front of the said first side and said second side, said upper segment also being attached to the top of said first side and said second side.

26. The extender for a traditional electrical box as recited in claim 25, further comprising:

one or more apertures in said wall for accommodating one or more screws for attaching a faceplate to an electrical instrumentality.

27. The extender for a traditional electrical box as recited in claim 26, further comprising:

a faceplate comprising:

a rear wall with a perimeter and a cross-sectional shape, the rear wall containing one or more instrumentality apertures and having a means for accommodating a releasable fastener for attaching said faceplate to an electrical instrumentality;

a flange; and

an interior surface projecting generally forward from the rear wall and connecting the rear wall to the flange.

28. An Electrical Box with Recessed Faceplate, which comprises:

two generally L-shaped sides, each having a first end, a second end, a bottom, and a shorter leg with an inside edge;

a back panel running the length of and attached to the first end of each of said L-shaped side, said back panel having a bottom;

a bottom panel attached to and running between the bottoms of said L-shaped sides and also attached to the bottom of the back panel;

a front panel, having a top and attached to the second end of each of said L-shaped sides running between said L-shaped sides from the bottom of said L-shaped sides to the vertex of the L and also attached to said bottom panel;

a U-shaped ledge having two legs, having an inside of a bottom of said U-shaped ledge attached to the top of said front panel, having an outside of the legs of said U-shaped ledge attached to the generally L-shaped sides in substantial alignment with an inside edge of a shorter leg of the L, having a threaded aperture in each leg of said U-shaped ledge, and having a secondary aperture in at least one leg of said U-shaped ledge;

an insert slidably mounted above said U-shaped ledge, said insert having a top, bottom having ends, two sides, and outer edges, with an aperture in the bottom of said insert to accommodate a switch and an aperture in one or more ends of the bottom of said insert designed to be substantially aligned with one or more of the secondary threaded apertures in one or more legs of said U-shaped ledge after said insert has been slidably mounted above said U-shaped ledge; and

a flange extending from the outer edges of said insert generally perpendicular to the top, bottom, and two sides of said insert.